

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Civil Division

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**,  
a municipal corporation  
441 4th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001,

Plaintiff,

v.

**LOFT AT 600 F, LLC**,  
d/b/a DC Event Hub  
600 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004,

**Serve On:**  
**Martin Avila**  
**Registered Agent**  
1804 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003

**And**

**MARTIN AVILA**  
1804 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Defendants.

Case No.: **2021 CA 003836 B**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION  
PROCEDURES ACT**

Plaintiff District of Columbia (“the District”), through the Office of the Attorney General, brings this action against Defendants Loft at 600 F, LLC, doing business as DC Event Hub (“DC Event Hub” or “the Company”), and, its Chief Executive Officer, Martin Avila, (collectively, “Defendants”) for violations of the District’s Consumer Protection Procedures Act (“CPPA”), D.C. Code §§ 28-3901, *et seq.*

DC Event Hub owns and rents entertainment venues in the District of Columbia that are reserved by consumers for weddings and other occasions. On March 16, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered the closure of venues for mass gatherings. Despite the fact that its venues were closed and that its contracts allow consumers to cancel and receive refunds, DC Event Hub refused to refund consumers who had paid DC Event Hub rental fees but could not use DC Event Hub's venues. The District brings this action to redress Defendants' violations of the CPPA, to obtain restitution for District consumers and civil penalties as permitted by statute, and to recover the District's fees and costs.

### **Jurisdiction**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case pursuant to D.C. Code §§ 11-921 and 28-3909.
2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants pursuant to D.C. Code § 13-423(a).
3. The Attorney General for the District of Columbia brings this action pursuant to the authority granted by D.C. Code § 28-3909.

### **The Parties**

4. Plaintiff District of Columbia ("District"), a municipal corporation empowered to sue and be sued, is the local government for the territory constituting the permanent seat of the government of the United States. The District is represented by and through its chief legal officer, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. The Attorney General has general charge and conduct of all legal business of the District and all suits initiated by and against the District and is responsible for upholding the public interest. D.C. Code § 1-301.81(a)(1). The Attorney General

is specifically authorized to enforce the District's consumer protection laws, including the CPPA, pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909.

5. Defendant DC Event Hub is a District of Columbia corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business at 600 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004. DC Event Hub owns and operates venues in the District under the name "Loft at 600 F, LLC." DC Event Hub engages, and has engaged, in the offer and sale of goods or services to consumers in D.C. for their personal, household or family purposes, by offering and renting venues for events such as weddings.

6. Defendant Martin Avila was, at all times material to this Complaint, DC Event Hub's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and corporate officer. At all times material to this Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others, he has formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, participated in, or with knowledge, approved of the acts or practices of DC Event Hub, including the acts and practices set forth in this Complaint.

### **Facts**

7. Defendants own or control event space at 600 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20004 and at the National Union Building at 918 F Street NW, which they offered to District consumers for parties and other events. Most consumers that rented event space from Defendants used the space for their weddings. The rental fees that Defendants charged ranged from \$3,500 to over \$10,000 per event.

8. Consumers signed contracts with Defendants for their rental services months in advance of planned events. Defendants' contracts required consumers to pay upfront deposits as well as all fees 90 days in advance of an event. Defendants' contracts, however, included a provision that if, for any reason beyond the control of the parties to the contract, it would be

impossible to hold the event, the consumer could reschedule and/or terminate the contract, without liability.

9. On March 16, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered the closure of all venues for large gatherings. In response to the Mayor's Order, Defendants suspended operations and cancelled all events.

10. Many consumers who had planned events months in advance were now not able to hold the events due to the pandemic and related public health emergency. Despite Defendants' representations that consumers could reschedule or terminate their contracts in such circumstances, Defendants failed to refund any consumers who had previously scheduled events with DC Event Hub, nor did they reschedule any of these events.

11. For example, one representative consumer made a deposit to DC Event Hub of \$11,750.00 for an event at the National Union Building location on March 21, 2020. Following the closure of the venue, Defendants informed this consumer that it would reschedule the consumer's event to a mutually agreed date. However, when the consumer attempted to reschedule, Defendants failed to respond to calls or emails. Defendants also never refunded this consumer for the cancelled event.

12. Other consumers fared no better and were met with nothing more than radio silence from Defendants. For example, another representative consumer rented space at the National Union Building location for her wedding on May 16, 2020. Despite numerous attempts to contact Defendants, she never received a response since the closure of the venue. The consumer was unable to retrieve her deposit of \$10,500.00 from Defendants, nor was her wedding rescheduled.

**Count I: Violations of the Consumer Protection Procedures Act**

13. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 12 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

14. The CPPA is a remedial statute that is to be broadly construed. It establishes an enforceable right to truthful information from merchants about consumer goods and services that are or would be purchased, leased or received in the District of Columbia.

15. The event space that Defendants sell to consumers are purchased for personal, household or family purposes and, therefore, are consumer goods and services.

16. Defendants, in the ordinary course of business, offer to sell or supply consumer goods and services and are therefore merchants.

17. The CPPA prohibits unlawful trade practices in connection with the offer, sale and supply of consumer goods and services.

18. Under Section 28-3904 of the CPPA, it is an unlawful trade practice for any person to:

- (e) misrepresent as to a material fact which has a tendency to mislead; and
- (f) fail to state a material fact if such failure tends to mislead.

19. Defendants' representations, including its representations in its contracts, that consumers could reschedule events or terminate their contract with no liability if events had to be cancelled, when, in fact, Defendants did not provide refunds or offer alternative dates, are misrepresentations concerning material facts that have a tendency to mislead consumers and are unlawful trade practices that violate the CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3904(e).

20. Defendants' failure to disclose to consumers that Defendants would not refund consumers or reschedule events that had to be cancelled, as well as their failure to disclosure to consumers that they would not respond to communications from consumers seeking refunds or to

reschedule their events, are omissions of material fact that have a tendency to mislead consumers and are unlawful trade practices that violates the CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3904(f).

21. At all times relevant to this Amended Complaint, Defendant Martin Avila (i) possessed and/or exercised the authority to control the policies and trade practices of DC Event Hub; (ii) was responsible for creating and implementing the deceptive policies and trade practices of DC Event Hub that are described in this Complaint; (iii) participated in the deceptive trade practices that are described in this Complaint; (iv) directed or supervised those employees of DC Event Hub who participated in the deceptive trade practices that are described in this Complaint; and (v) knew or should have known of the deceptive trade practices that are described in this Amended Complaint and had the power to stop them, but did not.

#### **Prayer for Relief**

WHEREFORE, the District of Columbia respectfully requests this Court enter a judgment in its favor and grant relief against Defendants as follows:

- (a) Preliminarily or permanently enjoin Defendants, pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(a), from violating the CPPA;
- (b) Order Defendants, jointly and severally, to pay restitution and damages pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(a) and (b);
- (c) Order the payment of civil penalties against Defendants, jointly and severally, as permitted by statute pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(b);
- (d) Award the District the costs of this action and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(b); and
- (e) Grant such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**Jury Demand**

The District of Columbia demands a trial by jury by the maximum number of jurors permitted by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 21, 2021

KARL A. RACINE  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

KATHLEEN KONOPKA  
Deputy Attorney General  
Public Advocacy Division

/s/ Benjamin Wiseman  
BENJAMIN WISEMAN [1005442]  
Director, Office of Consumer Protection  
Public Advocacy Division

/s/ David Brunfeld  
David Brunfeld [1672059]  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
400 Sixth Street N.W., 10th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 724-5079  
David.brunfeld@dc.gov

*Attorneys for the District of Columbia*



Superior Court of the District of Columbia  
 CIVIL DIVISION  
 Civil Actions Branch  
 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001  
 Telephone: (202) 879-1133 Website: www.dccourts.gov

District of Columbia

Plaintiff

vs.

Case Number

Loft at 600 F, LLC and Martin Avila

Defendant

**SUMMONS**

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty one (21) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

You are also required to file the original Answer with the Court in Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays or between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturdays. You may file the original Answer with the Court either before you serve a copy of the Answer on the plaintiff or within seven (7) days after you have served the plaintiff. If you fail to file an Answer, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

David Brunfeld

*Clerk of the Court*

Name of Plaintiff's Attorney

Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

Address

400 6th Street NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20001

202-724-5079

Telephone

如需翻译,请打电话 (202) 879-4828

Veillez appeler au (202) 879-4828 pour une traduction

Để có một bản dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4828

번역을 원하 시면, (202) 879-4828 로 전화주세요

የአገርኛ ትርጉም ለማግኘት (202) 879-4828 ይያው቉

**IMPORTANT: IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR WAGES MAY BE ATTACHED OR WITHHELD OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR REAL ESTATE YOU OWN MAY BE TAKEN AND SOLD TO PAY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS ACTION, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.**

If you wish to talk to a lawyer and feel that you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, promptly contact one of the offices of the Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) or the Neighborhood Legal Services (202-279-5100) for help or come to Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., for more information concerning places where you may ask for such help.

See reverse side for Spanish translation  
 Vea al dorso la traducción al español



**TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DEL DISTRITO DE COLUMBIA  
DIVISIÓN CIVIL**

**Sección de Acciones Civiles**

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000, Washington, D.C. 20001

Teléfono: (202) 879-1133 Sitio web: [www.dccourts.gov](http://www.dccourts.gov)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Demandante

contra

Número de Caso: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Demandado

**CITATORIO**

Al susodicho Demandado:

Por la presente se le cita a comparecer y se le requiere entregar una Contestación a la Demanda adjunta, sea en persona o por medio de un abogado, en el plazo de veintiún (21) días contados después que usted haya recibido este citatorio, excluyendo el día mismo de la entrega del citatorio. Si usted está siendo demandado en calidad de oficial o agente del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica o del Gobierno del Distrito de Columbia, tiene usted sesenta (60) días, contados después que usted haya recibido este citatorio, para entregar su Contestación. Tiene que enviarle por correo una copia de su Contestación al abogado de la parte demandante. El nombre y dirección del abogado aparecen al final de este documento. Si el demandado no tiene abogado, tiene que enviarle al demandante una copia de la Contestación por correo a la dirección que aparece en este Citatorio.

A usted también se le requiere presentar la Contestación original al Tribunal en la Oficina 5000, sito en 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., entre las 8:30 a.m. y 5:00 p.m., de lunes a viernes o entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 12:00 del mediodía los sábados. Usted puede presentar la Contestación original ante el Juez ya sea antes que usted le entregue al demandante una copia de la Contestación o en el plazo de siete (7) días de haberle hecho la entrega al demandante. Si usted incumple con presentar una Contestación, podría dictarse un fallo en rebeldía contra usted para que se haga efectivo el desagravio que se busca en la demanda.

*SECRETARIO DEL TRIBUNAL*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nombre del abogado del Demandante

Por: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subsecretario

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dirección

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teléfono

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District of Columbia

Plaintiff

vs.

Case Number \_\_\_\_\_

Loft at 600 F, LLC and Martin Avila

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David Brunfeld

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By \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Nombre del abogado del Demandante \_\_\_\_\_

Por: \_\_\_\_\_  
Subsecretario

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

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# Superior Court of the District of Columbia

## CIVIL DIVISION- CIVIL ACTIONS BRANCH INFORMATION SHEET

District of Columbia

Case Number: **2021 CA 003836 B**

vs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Loft at 600 F, LLC and Martin Avila

One of the defendants is being sued  
in their official capacity.

Name: <i>(Please Print)</i> David Brunfeld	Relationship to Lawsuit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorney for Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Self (Pro Se) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Firm Name: Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia	
Telephone No.: 202-724-5079	Six digit Unified Bar No.: 1672059

TYPE OF CASE:  Non-Jury       6 Person Jury       12 Person Jury  
 Demand: \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Other: Injunctive Relief

**PENDING CASE(S) RELATED TO THE ACTION BEING FILED**

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar #: \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar#: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATURE OF SUIT: (Check One Box Only)**

**A. CONTRACTS**

**COLLECTION CASES**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Breach of Contract        | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Under \$25,000 Consent Denied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Breach of Warranty        | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 OVER \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 OVER \$25,000 Consent Denied  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Negotiable Instrument     | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Insurance/Subrogation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Insurance/Subrogation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Personal Property         | Over \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent   | Over \$25,000 Consent Denied                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Employment Discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Insurance/Subrogation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 34 Insurance/Subrogation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Special Education Fees    | Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent  | Under \$25,000 Consent Denied                             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Motion to Confirm Arbitration<br>Award (Collection Cases Only) |   |

**B. PROPERTY TORTS**

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Automobile                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Destruction of Private Property | <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Trespass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Conversion                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Property Damage                 |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Shoplifting, D.C. Code § 27-102 (a) |   |                                      |

**C. PERSONAL TORTS**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Abuse of Process                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Invasion of Privacy                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Personal Injury- (Not Automobile,<br>Not Malpractice) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Alienation of Affection               | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Libel and Slander                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Wrongful Death (Not Malpractice)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Assault and Battery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Malicious Interference                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Wrongful Eviction                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Automobile- Personal Injury           | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Malicious Prosecution                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Friendly Suit   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05 Deceit (Misrepresentation) | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Malpractice Legal                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Asbestos  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 False Accusation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Malpractice Medical (Including Wrongful Death)   | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Toxic/Mass Torts                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 False Arrest                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Negligence- (Not Automobile,<br>Not Malpractice) | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Tobacco   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Fraud                                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Lead Paint  |

SEE REVERSE SIDE AND CHECK HERE IF USED

# Information Sheet, Continued

## C. OTHERS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Accounting                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Merit Personnel Act (OEA)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Att. Before Judgment                        | (D.C. Code Title 1, Chapter 6)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Ejectment                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Product Liability   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Special Writ/Warrants<br>(DC Code § 11-941) | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Application to Confirm, Modify,<br>Vacate Arbitration Award (DC Code § 16-4401) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Traffic Adjudication                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Merit Personnel Act (OHR)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Writ of Replevin                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Housing Code Regulations  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Enforce Mechanics Lien                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 32 Qui Tam   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Declaratory Judgment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Whistleblower   |

## II.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Change of Name                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Libel of Information                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Petition for Subpoena<br>[Rule 28-I (b)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Foreign Judgment/Domestic                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Enter Administrative Order as<br>Judgment [ D.C. Code § | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Release Mechanics Lien                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Foreign Judgment/International                 | 2-1802.03 (h) or 32-151 9 (a)]  | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Rule 27(a)(1)<br>(Perpetuate Testimony)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Correction of Birth Certificate                | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Master Meter (D.C. Code §                               | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Petition for Structured Settlement       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Correction of Marriage<br>Certificate          | 42-3301, et seq.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Petition for Liquidation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Vehicle)  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Currency) |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Other)    |   |  |

## D. REAL PROPERTY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Real Property-Real Estate                | <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Quiet Title                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Specific Performance                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Granted           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Condemnation (Eminent Domain)            | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Denied            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Mortgage Foreclosure/Judicial Sale       | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Tax Lien Bid Off Certificate Consent Granted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (RP) |  |

/s/ David Brunfeld

Attorney's Signature

10/21/2021

Date



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CIVIL DIVISION Civil Actions Branch  
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000, Washington, D.C. 20001  
Telephone: (202) 879-1133 • Website: www.dccourts.gov

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Vs.

C.A. No. 2021 CA 003836 B

LOFT AT 600 F, LLC et al

**INITIAL ORDER AND ADDENDUM**

**Pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-906 and District of Columbia Superior Court Rule of Civil Procedure**

**("Super. Ct. Civ. R.") 40-I, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:**

(1) This case is assigned to the judge and calendar designated below. All future filings in this case shall bear the calendar number and the judge's name beneath the case number in the caption.

(2) Within 60 days of the filing of the complaint, plaintiff must file proof of service on each defendant of copies of (a) the summons, (b) the complaint, and (c) this Initial Order and Addendum. The court will dismiss the claims against any defendant for whom such proof of service has not been filed by this deadline, unless the court extended the time for service under Rule 4(m).

(3) Within 21 days of service (unless otherwise provided in Rule 12), each defendant must respond to the complaint by filing an answer or other responsive pleading. The court may enter a default and a default judgment against any defendant who does not meet this deadline, unless the court extended the deadline under Rule 55(a).

(4) At the time stated below, all counsel and unrepresented parties shall participate in a remote hearing to establish a schedule and discuss the possibilities of settlement. Counsel shall discuss with their clients **before** the hearing whether the clients are agreeable to binding or non-binding arbitration. **This order is the only notice that parties and counsel will receive concerning this hearing.**

(5) If the date or time is inconvenient for any party or counsel, the Civil Actions Branch may continue the Conference **once**, with the consent of all parties, to either of the two succeeding Fridays. To reschedule the hearing, a party or lawyer may call the Branch at (202) 879-1133. Any such request must be made at least seven business days before the scheduled date.

No other continuance of the conference will be granted except upon motion for good cause shown.

(6) Parties are responsible for obtaining and complying with all requirements of the General Order for Civil cases, each judge's Supplement to the General Order and the General Mediation Order. Copies of these orders are available in the Courtroom and on the Court's website <http://www.dccourts.gov/>.

**Chief Judge Anita M. Josey-Herring**

Case Assigned to: Judge JOSE M LOPEZ

Date: October 22, 2021

Initial Conference: **REMOTE HEARING - DO NOT COME TO COURTHOUSE  
SEE REMOTE HEARING INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED TO INITIAL ORDER**

9:30 am, Friday, January 21, 2022

Location: Courtroom 212

500 Indiana Avenue N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20001

## **ADDENDUM TO INITIAL ORDER AFFECTING ALL MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES**

D.C. Code § 16-2821, which part of the Medical Malpractice Proceedings Act of 2006, provides, "[a]fter action is filed in the court against a healthcare provider alleging medical malpractice, the court shall require the parties to enter into mediation, without discovery or, if all parties agree[,] with only limited discovery that will not interfere with the completion of mediation within 30 days of the Initial Scheduling and Settlement Conference ('ISSC'), prior to any further litigation in an effort to reach a settlement agreement. The early mediation schedule shall be included in the Scheduling Order following the ISSC. Unless all parties agree, the stay of discovery shall not be more than 30 days after the ISSC."

To ensure compliance with this legislation, on or before the date of the ISSC, the Court will notify all attorneys and *pro se* parties of the date and time of the early mediation session and the name of the assigned mediator. Information about the early mediation date also is available over the internet at <https://www.dccourts.gov/pa/>. To facilitate this process, all counsel and *pro se* parties in every medical malpractice case are required to confer, jointly complete and sign an EARLY MEDIATION FORM, which must be filed no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the ISSC. D.C. Code § 16-2825 Two separate Early Mediation Forms are available. Both forms may be obtained at [www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation](http://www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation). One form is to be used for early mediation with a mediator from the multi-door medical malpractice mediator roster; the second form is to be used for early mediation with a private mediator. Plaintiff's counsel is responsible for eFiling the form and is required to e-mail a courtesy copy to [earlymedmal@dcsc.gov](mailto:earlymedmal@dcsc.gov). Unrepresented plaintiffs who elect not to eFile must either mail the form to the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Office at, Suite 2900, 410 E Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001, or deliver if in person if the Office is open for in-person visits.

A roster of medical malpractice mediators available through the Court's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, with biographical information about each mediator, can be found at [www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation/mediatorprofiles](http://www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation/mediatorprofiles). All individuals on the roster are judges or lawyers with at least 10 years of significant experience in medical malpractice litigation. D.C. Code § 16-2823(a). If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the Court will appoint one. D.C. Code § 16-2823(b).

The following people are required by D.C. Code § 16-2824 to attend personally the Early Mediation Conference: (1) all parties; (2) for parties that are not individuals, a representative with settlement authority; (3) in cases involving an insurance company, a representative of the company with settlement authority; and (4) attorneys representing each party with primary responsibility for the case.

No later than ten (10) days after the early mediation session has terminated, Plaintiff must eFile with the Court a report prepared by the mediator, including a private mediator, regarding: (1) attendance; (2) whether a settlement was reached; or, (3) if a settlement was not reached, any agreements to narrow the scope of the dispute, limit discovery, facilitate future settlement, hold another mediation session, or otherwise reduce the cost and time of trial preparation. D.C. Code§ 16-2826. Any Plaintiff who is unrepresented may mail the form to the Civil Actions Branch at [address] or deliver it in person if the Branch is open for in-person visits. The forms to be used for early mediation reports are available at [www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation](http://www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation).

Chief Judge Anita M. Josey-Herring

## Civil Remote Hearing Instructions for Participants

The following instructions are for participants who are scheduled to have cases heard before a Civil Judge in a **Remote Courtroom**

### **Option 1:** (AUDIO ONLY/Dial-in by Phone):

Toll 1 (844) 992-4762 or (202) 860-2110, enter the Meeting ID from the attachment followed by #, press again to enter session.

- *Please call in no sooner than 5 minutes before your scheduled hearing time. Once you have joined the session, please place your phone on mute until directed otherwise. If you should happen to get disconnected from the call, please call back in using the phone number and access number provided and the courtroom clerk will mute your call until the appropriate time.*

If you select **Option 2** or **Option 3** use the **Audio Alternative**

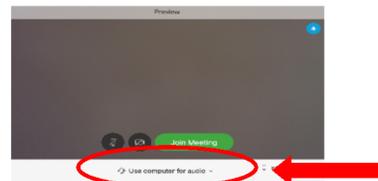
### **Option 2:** (LAPTOP/ DESKTOP USERS 1):

Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and copy and paste following address from the next page:  
<https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/XXXXXXXXXX>

### **Option 3:** (LAPTOP/ DESKTOP USERS 2):

Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and copy and paste following address  
<https://dccourts.webex.com> Select **Join**, enter the Meeting ID from the next page

**AUDIO ALTERNATIVE:** Instead of automatically using **USE COMPUTER FOR AUDIO**, select **CALL-IN** and follow the **CALL-IN** prompt window. Use a cell phone or desk phone. You will be heard clearer if you **do not** place your phone on **SPEAKER**. It is very important that you enter the **ACCESS ID #** so that your audio is matched with your video.



### **Option 4:** (Ipad/SMART PHONE/TABLET):

- Go to App Store, Download WebEx App (Cisco WebEx Meetings)
- Sign into the App with your Name and Email Address
- Select Join Meeting
- Enter address from the next page: <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/XXXXXXXXXX>
- Click join and make sure your microphone is muted and your video is unmuted (if you need to be seen). If you only need to speak and do not need to be seen, use the audio only option.
- When you are ready click "Join Meeting". If the host has not yet started the meeting, you will be placed in the lobby until the meeting begins.

**For Technical Questions or issues Call: (202) 879-1928, Option #2**

Superior Court of the District of Columbia  
Public Access for Remote Court Hearings  
(Effective August 24, 2020)

**The current telephone numbers for all remote hearings are: 202-860-2110 (local) or 844-992-4726 (toll free).** After dialing the number, enter the WebEx Meeting ID as shown below for the courtroom. Please click a WebEx Direct URL link below to join the hearing online.

Audio and video recording; taking pictures of remote hearings; and sharing the live or recorded remote hearing by rebroadcasting, live-streaming or otherwise are not allowed

Division	Courtroom	Types of Hearings Scheduled in Courtroom	Public Access via WebEx	
			WebEx Direct URL	WebEx Meeting ID
Auditor Master	206	Auditor Master Hearings	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbaudmaster">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbaudmaster</a>	129 648 5606
Civil	100	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb100">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb100</a>	129 846 4145
	205	Foreclosure Matters	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb205">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb205</a>	129 814 7399
	212	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb212">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb212</a>	129 440 9070
	214	Title 47 Tax Liens; and Foreclosure Hearings	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb214">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb214</a>	129 942 2620
	219	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb219">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb219</a>	129 315 2924
	221	Civil 1 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb221">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb221</a>	129 493 5162
	318	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb318">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb318</a>	129 801 7169
	320	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb320">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb320</a>	129 226 9879

400	Judge in Chambers Matters including Temporary Restraining Orders, Preliminary Injunctions and Name Changes	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb400">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb400</a>	129 339 7379
415	Civil 2 Scheduling Conferences; Status, Motion and Evidentiary Hearings including Bench Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb415">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb415</a>	129 314 3475
516		<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb516">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb516</a>	129 776 4396
517		<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb517">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb517</a>	129 911 6415
518		<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb518">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb518</a>	129 685 3445
519		<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb519">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb519</a>	129 705 0412
JM-4		<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm4">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbjm4</a>	129 797 7557
A-47	Housing Conditions Matters	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctba47">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctba47</a>	129 906 2065
B-52	Debt Collection and Landlord and Tenant Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb52">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb52</a>	129 793 4102
B-53	Landlord and Tenant Matters including Lease Violation Hearings and Post Judgment Motions	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb53">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb53</a>	129 913 3728
B-109	Landlord and Tenant Matters	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb109">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb109</a>	129 127 9276
B-119	Small Claims Hearings and Trials	<a href="https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb119">https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctbb119</a>	129 230 4882